

**AMHERST COUNCIL ON AGING MINUTES**  
**August 4, 2011**  
**Bangs Community Center: Lower Meeting Room**

**Members Present:** Daniel Clapp, Joan Golowich, Joel Gordon, Rosemary Kofler, Mary Jane Laus, Barbara Sutherland, Juana Trujillo, Jack Wollensak

**Absent:** Sue Dierks

**Select Board Liaison:** absent

**Staff Present:** Nancy Pagano (Director/Program Director), Maura Plante (Assistant Director/Services), Karen Erman (Administrative Assistant)

**Guests:** John Musante (Town Manager), Doris Holden (Treasurer of the Friends of the Amherst Senior Center), Arnold Friedman (Friends Board), Richard Kofler (Friends Board), Scott Merzbach (Gazette Reporter), Alan Root.

**Welcome:** Dan Clapp, Chair, called the Council on Aging meeting to order at 9:06 AM.

**Minutes of Previous Meeting:** The minutes of the June 9, 2011 meeting were approved and accepted.

**FRIENDS**

**Treasurer's Report:**

Doris provided a handout showing \$7,057.18 in the checking account and \$81,386.70 in the investment account, plus a \$15,000 CD with interest of 0.75% that will mature December 4, 2011. The Treasurer's report was approved and accepted.

**Donations for FY12 to date:**

**Karen** stated that for FY11 the Friends received a total of \$16,441.66 of which \$13,929.00 came in after the solicitation letter went out in the November newsletter. Thus far for FY12, \$243.00 has been received.

**Friends Report:**

**Rosemary** reported. The Friends decided to present the 2012 Follies in March, since May seems to conflict with so many other Town activities. A different venue is being strongly considered since the ARHS auditorium was too large for the audience, too costly, lighting and sound were unsatisfactory and Donna Lee had many problems contacting and communicating with the HS staff. Donna Lee, Barbara Slovin and Rosemary toured Buckley Hall on Amherst College campus and found it very desirable. We will submit an application to use that facility before the September deadline.

The Friends will be participating in a fundraiser with Bertucci's Restaurant on Tuesday, October 4. Between the hours of 5:30 and 9 PM those who present a special flyer when they dine will have 15% of their meal and drinks donated to the Senior Center.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Public Safety Picnic:**

**Nancy** scheduled the Public Safety Picnic at the Hadley Young Men's Club on August 25. Senior center folks will bring the food. The police chief, fire chief and others will do the grilling. The Horse Mountain Jazz Band will donate their time. It will be a good opportunity to get to know Town officials in a happy setting. Nancy encouraged all members and guests to attend.

**Volunteer Recognition Social:**

Volunteer Recognition will be held on October 21. Pat Sicard of the RSVP volunteer program will be keynote speaker. Nancy and Maura recommend that the Eveline Sears Activist Awards go to **John George** and **Ruth Ann Eastman**. John, a retired chemistry professor, has been a Meals on Wheels driver for many years. He also has taken on the MOW bookkeeping responsibilities, which is a tremendous help to Maura.

Ruth Ann has lead the Grocery Bingo program for many years. Even though she does not drive she has always managed to pick up all the prizes and organize the games. She is now ill with cancer and is currently in rehab. The COA unanimously approved the above recommendations.

**Van:**

**Nancy** has spoken with Town Manager about the Senior Center need to have a mini-van. Currently the staff or volunteers use their own cars and own gas to run errands, pick up supplies, deliver meals, make home visits, etc. The Senior Center still has a mini-bus but that is a larger vehicle and requires a certified driver.

**John Musante** does not dispute the need for a small van. He will also consider vehicle sharing rather than adding another vehicle to the Town fleet. Operating and insurance costs are important issues.

John went on to thank COA members for their willingness to serve. His own reappointment process is now underway. He added that the new Pay-by-Parking machines are being unveiled this week.

**Dan** stated that he wrote a letter to the Select Board on behalf of the COA recommending John Musante's reappointment as Town Manager.

## CONTINUING BUSINESS

**Parking Sticker Program:**

**Jack** reported. The "Senior Parking Sticker Program" went into effect on Monday, the first of August. The cost from August 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011 is \$10.00. In the first three days of the program, 21 stickers have been sold. Parking officials have been notified that the sticker will be placed on the rear window on the driver's side or on the rear side window of the driver's side. The senior parking sticker will be valid in the Boltwood lot or in the twelve spaces east of the Ann Whalen apartments only.

**Long Range Planning:**

**Jack** provided a handout and made a Power Point presentation on what was learned by visiting other senior centers in the area. Jack and Rosemary visited a total of seven Senior Centers and two Community Centers in Massachusetts and Connecticut with the aim of gathering design concepts for a new or refurbished senior center in Amherst. They talked with Directors and gathered information about the facility size, building costs, date of occupancy, floor plan, services offered, staffing and the senior population in that town. Photographs of the exterior and interior spaces were taken, many of which were shown on the Power Point. All but one of the centers visited is new or newly refurbished. They vary in size from 5000 sq.ft. to 36,000 sq.ft. Most are modern, single-story buildings with ample free parking. Jack also assembled a list of rooms that we would like to see in a new or refurbished senior center in Amherst. He showed photographs from the centers visited of some of the rooms that are well suited to the specific function they serve.

**John Musante** commented. He is currently involved in a Town-side building assessment with the Facilities Director. They will look at all the properties the Town owns and evaluate current uses. It will be helpful to John for the COA to:

- provide him with a better understanding of our priorities for specific-use space
- indicate more explicitly what we can and cannot accommodate well at Bangs

**Nancy** said it is clear we have outgrown our space at Bangs and we look to John Musante for guidance. She requested a COA sub-committee of 4 members to continue with this study and provide the information John requests. Joel Gordon, Rosemary Kofler, Jack Wollensak and Mary Jane Laus will serve on this subcommittee.

## STAFF REPORTS

**Nancy** expressed gratitude to all those involved in the newly renovated plaza. "We are so happy with it."

Staff and COA members are currently working very hard on the Department of Elder Affairs statistical report, due in September. The COA Annual Report and the Senior Center Annual Report are also due in September.

Nancy encouraged COA members to attend the Mass COA Conference on October 5, 6 and 7 in Sturbridge. She would like at least two members to attend. It is important to learn what is going on in the State.

**Maura** applied for a grant from HVES to increase Evelyn Ross' hours to do more outreach and home visits.

Maura is contacting the colleges for students wishing to do Community Service. UMass and Amherst College will have Community Service Fairs, which Maura or Evie will attend.

## **SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATE**

### **SHAG (Senior Health Advisory Group):**

**Dan** reported that Dr. Beth Warner, a newly Board Certified gerantologist, recently joined the staff at Cooley Dickinson Hospital. She is available for advice and referrals, but does not have her own patient practice for one-on-one care.

**Highland Valley Elder Services:** no summer meetings/no report.

The COA meeting adjourned at 10:37 AM.

**The next meeting of the COA will be held on Tuesday, September 13, 2011 at 9:00 AM at the Bangs Community Center.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Rosemary Kofler, Secretary

The approved minutes of the June 9, 2011 meeting were delivered to the Select Board Office to be filed.

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**Document List**

The following documents were made available to all members of the COA during the meeting. They are available for review at the Amherst Senior Center, 70 Boltwood Walk, Amherst MA.

1. Meeting Agenda.
2. Minutes of June 9, 2011 meeting.
3. Friends of the Amherst Senior Center Treasurer's Report.
4. FY11 COA Member List
5. Draft COA FY11 Annual Report
6. Amherst Senior Health Services Clinic Visits for July 2011.
7. Long Range Planning Senior Center Survey